

DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN MATERIALS ON PUBLIC LANDS OF
THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DECEMBER 13 (legislative day, DECEMBER 7), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2697]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2697) to provide for the disposal of materials or resources on the public lands of the United States which are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, having carefully considered the same report favorably thereon with amendments and with the recommendation that the bill, as amended, do pass.

On page 1, line 4, strike out the words "materials or resources, including".

On page 1, line 8, strike out the words "or resources".

On page 1, line 10, strike out the words "or resources".

On page 2, line 11, strike out the words "or resources".

On page 2, lines 14, and 15, strike out the words "or resources".

On page 2, line 20, strike out the words "or resources" in both instances.

On page 2, line 22, strike out the word "valid".

On page 3, line 2, strike out the words "or resources" and "valid".

An explanation of the bill, as carried in the report of the House Committee on the Public Lands, is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

With limited exceptions, sand, gravel, earth, common rock, timber, and other natural materials and resources on the public domain have not been made subject to disposal by law. Although these products are relatively less valuable than mineral deposits now subject to disposal under the mining and mineral leasing laws, the demand for them is increasing and many of them are needed in connection with the prosecution of the war. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of such materials and resources where such

disposal is not detrimental to the public interest. These materials and resources would be disposed of for an adequate price after public notice, to be given in such manner as may be prescribed by the Secretary. The committee has been assured by representatives of the Department that the ample public notice to be given will be by publication and will conform to the general practice of the Department.

This bill has also been approved by the Director of the Budget.

The introduction and passage of the bill was recommended by the Secretary of the Interior in a letter addressed to the Speaker of the House. The letter follows and is made a part of this report:

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 5, 1943.

HON. SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is enclosed for consideration of the Congress, a proposed bill "to provide for the disposal of materials or resources on the public lands of the United States which are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior."

I recommend that the proposed bill be placed before the House of Representatives for appropriate action and that it be given favorable consideration.

This Department receives many requests for permission to remove from the public lands materials or resources, including sand, stone, gravel, and timber the disposal of which is not expressly authorized by law. While section 453 of the Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 2) vests in the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, broad administrative powers over the public lands, it is deemed advisable, nevertheless, to secure express statutory authority to provide for the disposals.

The situation has become acute, because of the need for materials of the class mentioned in connection with the prosecution of the war. The enactment of the proposed legislation at an early date, in my opinion, would be in the public interest. It would, moreover, aid in the war program and tend to stimulate post-war activities.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget informs me that there is no objection to the presentation of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

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